

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

WILSON, LARRY DAVID. 1985. *Tantilla cuniculator*.

*Tantilla cuniculator* Smith

*Tantilla moesta cuniculator* Smith, 1939:32. Type-locality, "Mérida, Yucatán, [México]." Holotype, Field Mus. Natur. Hist. 19408, juvenile female, collected in 1934 by Eunice Blackburn (not examined by author).

*Tantilla cuniculator*: Smith, 1942:33.

- CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.

- DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. A species of *Tantilla* with no pale middorsal stripe and a barely discernible but uninterrupted pale lateral stripe on adjacent halves of dorsal scale rows 3 and 4 extending the length of the body. The dorsal ground color is dark brown. The venter is reddish orange. The head pattern consists of a complete pale nuchal collar (pale yellow-orange in life) crossing the posterior portion of the parietals and the ultimate supralabial. The remainder of the head is dark brown save for a pale spot on the snout and a pale postocular spot. Ventrals and subcaudals range from 139 to 154 and 48 to 55, respectively. *Tantilla cuniculator* may be distinguished from all congeners by possession of an uninterrupted but barely discernible pale lateral stripe the length of the body on adjacent halves of scale rows 3 and 4, no pale middorsal stripe, a complete pale nuchal collar, a dark brown dorsal ground color, paraventral scale row not divided into dark upper and pale lower halves, 139–154 ventrals, and 48–55 subcaudals.

- DESCRIPTIONS. A summary description is provided by Smith (1942). More complete descriptions are in Wilson et al. (1977) and Wilson (1982).

- ILLUSTRATIONS. Wilson (1982) provided black-and-white photographs of the dorsal and lateral views of the head and anterior body of this species.

- DISTRIBUTION. *Tantilla cuniculator* occurs at low elevations (10–15 m) of the Yucatan Peninsula in the Mexican states of Yucatán and Quintana Roo, the northern portion of Belize, and the Petén region of northern Guatemala (occurrence in the last area is based on a sight record from the Ruins of Tikal; see Wilson, 1982).

- FOSSIL RECORD. None.

- PERTINENT LITERATURE. The published information on this species almost wholly deals with systematics. Descriptions and discussion of relationships are in Smith (1939, 1942), Wilson et al. (1977), and Wilson (1982, 1983).

- ETYMOLOGY. The name *cuniculator* is derived from the Latin *cuniculus*, meaning "a rabbit or underground passage" and, by extension, a "burrow" and *-ator*, meaning "of or characterized by," in reference to the semifossorial habits of this snake.

## LITERATURE CITED

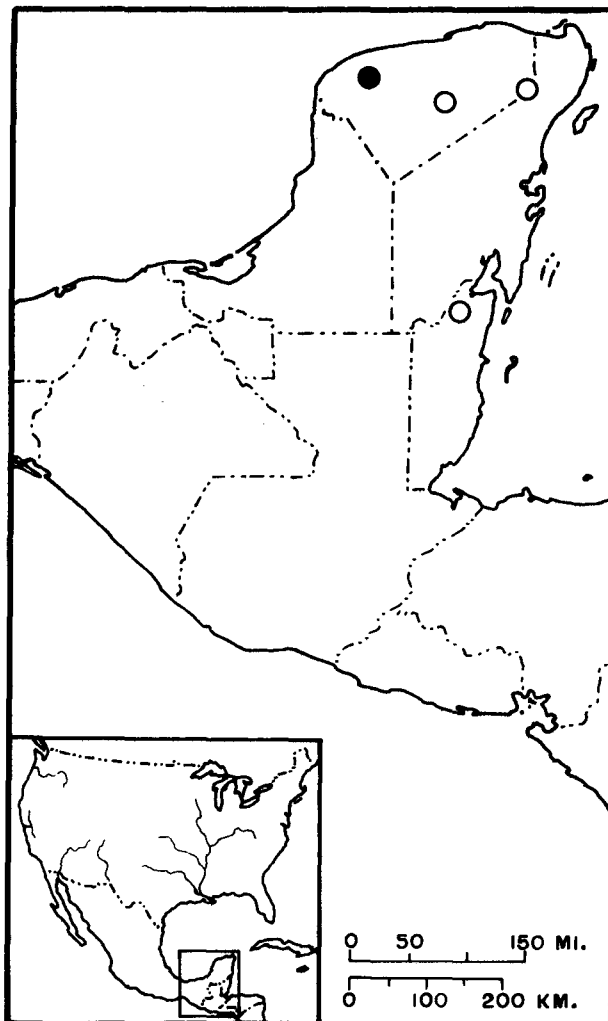
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MAP. Solid circle marks type-locality; open circles indicate other localities.